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A.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR
1938.

REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the Year 1938.

The Public Health Officials of the Urban District are the Medical Officer of Health (part time), and Mr A. Penbryn Roberts, who combines the duties of Highways Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector and Water Manager.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—7,224 acres.

Estimated population—4,701.

Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1938 according to the rate book—1,555.

Rateable value—£22,804.

Sum represented by penny rate—£85.

There are still no changes in the industries of the Town, about 40 female workers continue to be employed at the Kymric Mills in the new textile industry,

The work at the New Service Reservoir and Impounding Reservoir, which provided employment for a number of male workers, was completed during the latter period of the Year.

The auctions for cattle, sheep and pigs are conducted at the Smithfield fortnightly, and the monthly sale of horses at the Repository continue to be flourishing.

The facilities for recreation and sport are taken advantage of by all classes.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.
Live Births		69	40	29
	{ Legitimate ...		37	29
	{ Illegitimate ...		3	0

This gives a Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of 14.6 compared with 15.1 for the whole of England and Wales.

		Total.	M.	F.
Still Births		5	2	3
	{ Legitimate ...		2	2
	{ Illegitimate ...		0	1

The rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births is 67.5.

		Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	... ..	65	32	33

The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 12.0 compared with 11.6 for England and Wales.

There were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal causes.

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under one year of age : —	2	1	1
Legitimate		0	1
Illegitimate		1	0

The rate per 1,000 live births, all infants 28.9

The rate per 1,000 legitimate, live births 14.4

The rate per 1,000 illegitimate, live births 14.4

Deaths from Cancer 9

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough
(all ages) 1

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under
2 years of age) 1

Other Causes of Death.

Infuenza 2

Tuberculosis of the respiratory system 2

Other Tuberculosis 1

Cerebral Haemorrhage ... 3

Heart Disease 18

Other Circulatory Diseases ... 11

Bronchitis 3

Pneumonia 1

Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... 2

Congenital Debility, Premature Birth 1

Violence apart from suicide ... 4

Other defined diseases ... 5

The condition of environment or occupation do not appear to have any effect on the health of the district.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There is still no change in the services provided under the following heads : —

- (1) Laboratory Facilities.
- (2) Ambulance facilities.
- (3) Nursing in the Home.
- (4) Treatment centres and clinics.
- (5) Hospitals: Public and Voluntary.

The ambulance facilities provided by a private firm still continues to be satisfactory and sufficient for the district.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—During the year 500 yards of 3" water main was laid at Pool Road with the result that there is a great improvement in the supply in that area of the Town.

Three samples of the Town's water supply have been taken for Chemical Analysis and Bacteriological Examination, and the reports state the water to be of excellent quality and quite satisfactory for drinking purposes.

The pressure filters and the new Service Reservoir are working in a very satisfactory manner.

I give the results of the examination of the water supply taken on June 15th.

Chemical.

		Parts per 100,000.	Grains per gallon.
Total solids (dried at 120°C)	...	9.0	6.3
Combined chlorine (as Cl)	...	1.00	0.70

Equivalent to sodium chloride (as NaCl)	1.65	1.16
Nitric Nitrogen (nitrates)	... 0.04	0.03
Nitrous Nitrogen (nitrates)	... Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ..	... 0.0004	0.0003
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	... 0.0014	0.0010
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	0.044	0.031
Lead or copper	... Nil	Nil
Temporary Hardness (equivalent to CaCo)	4.0	2.8
Permanent hardness („ „)	2.8	2.0
Total hardness („ „)	6.8	4.8

Bacteriological.

The average number of organisms producing visible colonies on gelatine plates, incubated at 20°C for 3 days is found ... 9 per c.c.

The average number of organisms producing visible colonies on agar plates, incubated at 37.5°C for 2 days is found to be ... 2 per c.c.

B. coli	... not found in 100 c.c.
Streptococci	... not found in 30 c.c.
Cl. Welchii (spores)	... not found in 10 c.c.

Remarks.

Both from a bacteriological and chemical point of view this water is of excellent quality and it is quite safe for drinking purposes.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The arrangements for drainage, sewerage and sewerage disposal continue to be satisfactory. There have been no important extensions apart from connections to new houses and 40 yards of 9" sewer to a new house at Milford Road.

Rivers and Streams.

No action was found necessary to check pollution of the Severn.

Closet Accommodation.

There is still no change in the conservancy system. The number of water closets is 991 and 121 privies, the latter being all outside the sewerage system.

Public Cleansing.

The daily collection and destruction of house refuse is carried out in a satisfactory manner.

ANNUAL SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

(a) The following inspections were made during the year :

Nuisances—224.

Schools—21.

Factories and Workshops—53.

Slaughter Houses—36.

Infectious Diseases—31.

Cow Sheds—48.

(b) The number of notices served during the year, distinguishing Statutory from Informal.

(1) Informal Notices.

		Notices served.	Complied with.	Uncomplied with.
Defects in water closets	...	56	56	0
Defects in drains	...	41	41	0
Cleansing after infectious disease	11	11	11	0
Defects in eavestrough	...	5	5	0
Cow Sheds	..	6	6	0
Other cases	...	7	7	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	126	126	0

(2) **Statutory Notices.**

Nuisances	...	...	4	4	0
Disinfection and cleansing	...	...	2	2	0
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	6	6	0

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.**1. — Inspections of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

Including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	Inspections.	No. of Written Notices.	Prosecuted.
Factories ... (including Factory Laundries)	18	3	Nil
Workshops ... (including Workshop Laundries)	32	2	Nil
Workplaces ... (other than outworkers' premises)	5	Nil	Nil

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Nuisances under Public Health Acts :—

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Prosecutions.
Want of Cleanliness	... 7	7	...	...
Want of Ventilation	... 3	3	...	...
Overcrowding	... ..	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors	... ..	...	...	...
Other Nuisances	... ..	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation :—				
Insufficient	... 3	3	...	...
Unsuitable or defective	... 2	2	...	...
Not separate for sexes	... ..	...	...	..

Offences under Factory and Workshops Acts :—

Illegal occupation of Underground Bakehouses (s. 101)

Other Offences

Total ...

15

15

...

...

Shops.

No action found necessary under the Shops Act, 1934.

Smoke Abatement.

There have been no nuisances arising from smoke.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no private or public swimming baths or pools in the area.

Schools.

The three elementary and one secondary school have been regularly inspected during the year.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year : —

1 (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Housing Acts) 46

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 87

2 (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 46

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 87

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year with service of Formal Notices : —

(a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 39

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of Housing Act, 1930.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 9

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By Owners 9

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

- (b) Proceeding under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 9

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—

(a) By Owners 9

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

- (c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

- (d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined and tenements having rendered fit ... Nil

(4) Housing Act, 1935.) – Overcrowding :

(a) (1) Number of houses overcrowded at the end of year ... 12

(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 13

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein .. 72

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... Nil

(c) Number of cases relieved during the year ... 1
Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 7

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after which the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it advisable to report Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.** – All premises of retailers of milk have been visited regularly, and generally found to be kept in good clean condition. Samples for bacterial contents and tubercle bacilli are undertaken by the County Council.

(b) **Meat and other Foods.** – The 6 fried fish shops and 4 retailers of fresh fish have been regularly inspected and found to be clean and in good condition.

There are now only 5 private slaughter houses in the district, one premises were found to be unfit for use as a slaughter houses, and these premises have now been closed. Other Slaughter houses are kept in good clean condition.

There are 7 shops reiailing home-killed meat, and one imported meat. These have been visited regularly, and found kept in clean condition.

Carcascs inspected.

			Cattle excluding Cows		Sheep and Calves Lambs Pigs		
Number killed (approximately)	...	...	320	106	64	2465	510
Number inspected	...	...	89	34	26	240	76
All Diseases except Tuberculosis :							
Whole carcasses condemned...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis only :							
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(c) **Adulteration.** -- No action taken.

(d) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**
No action taken and no provision made with any laboratory.

(e) **Nutrition.** No special work has been done.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1933.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	7	6	Nil
Pneumonia ...	3	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	0	Nil
Erysipelas ...	2	0	Nil

The ages of the Scarlet Fever cases were 6, 12, 12, 11, 14, 12 and 11 years.

The ages of the pneumonia cases were 56, 40 and 43 years.

The ages of the erysipelas cases were 35, 36 years.

The age of the puerperal case was 35 years.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

There is no change.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There are no persons suffering from tuberculosis employed in the milk trade.

During the year there were notified four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and three cases of non-pulmonary.

The pulmonary cases were males aged 26, 28 and 31 years, and one female aged 71 years.

The non-pulmonary cases were all females aged 1½, 17 and 23 years.

There were two pulmonary tuberculosis deaths both males aged 31 and 40 years.

The one non-pulmonary death was a child aged 1½ years.

Notification of the disease is efficiently carried out, there being no deaths from non-notified cases.

I beg to record the valuable assistance rendered to me at all times by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr A. Penbryn-Roberts, and the other Officials of your Council.

I am,

Yours obediently,

A. SHEARER,
Medical Officer of Health.

29th May, 1939.

